



## OFFICES OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Douglas M. Duncan  
*County Executive*

Bruce Romer  
*Chief Administrative Officer*

July 20, 2005

Kenneth C. Montague, Jr.  
Secretary  
Department Of Juvenile Services  
120 West Fayette Street  
Baltimore, MD 21201-3741

Dear Secretary Montague:

This letter is to request a clarification on the State's plans for placing juveniles who would have been assigned to the Charles H. Hickey School after its scheduled closing which is to begin on November 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. While we recognize the need to address the deplorable conditions that existed at the Hickey School, our Commission is concerned that the closing may result in overcrowding at the Noyes Children's Center in Rockville or other existing juvenile residential facilities unless alternative residential facilities are identified and prepared well in advance of Hickey's closing.

As I am sure you are aware, the Office of the Independent Juvenile Justice Monitor prepared a report in March of this year that alleged several very serious instances of child abuse at the Noyes Center. Officials from your department and the Office of the Independent Juvenile Justice Monitor recently attended a meeting of the Montgomery County Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission to discuss the incidents at Noyes and the steps that were being taken to prevent these incidents from re-occurring in the future. We are appreciative of the time they spent with us and the information they imparted. Planning for residential alternatives to Hickey is imperative. Otherwise, further burdening the staff at the Noyes Center with juvenile placements that would have been made at the Hickey School will impede any improvements in training, programming, staffing and staff retention at the Noyes Center. Overcrowding at Noyes remains a concern as it might possibly lead to a reoccurrence of the abuse of the children placed there by the State.

I know you share our concern that the State's juvenile justice programs need to emphasize treatment and education and provide a safe and secure environment for the children in these residential facilities. However, further burdening the Noyes Center and other juvenile



### Criminal Justice Coordinating Commission

101 Monroe Street • Rockville, Maryland 20850 • 240/777-2500, TTY 240/777-2544, FAX 240/777-2518  
[www.montgomerycountymd.gov](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov)



Mr. Kenneth C. Montague, Jr.

Page 2

July 20, 2005

residential facilities in Maryland will preclude making the improvements that you are trying to achieve in these very important programs.

We look forward to hearing from you on this matter in the near future. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued work to improve juvenile justice services in Maryland.

Sincerely,

*Dolores Kozloski* *gsk*

Dolores Kozloski, Chair  
Montgomery County Criminal Justice  
Coordinating Commission

**copies:**

Douglas M. Duncan, Montgomery County Executive

Senator Brian E. Frosh, District 16

Delegate Kathleen Dumais, District 15

Delmas Wood, Department of Juvenile Services

Dennis Nial, Department of Juvenile Services

Leon Geter, Chair, Montgomery County Juvenile Justice Commission